

The Evolution of Technology

Archaeology 105

Section: E100

Term: 2003 Fall

Instructor: Professor Brian Hayden

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Evening course at Burnaby campus

Discussion Topics: With more than two million years of technological and cultural change to study, archaeology is in a unique position to examine the role of technology in our lives. In fact, archaeology has been called "the Science of Technology" by some. In this course we will learn what perspectives archaeologists have found most useful for explaining technological changes and how technological changes have created other changes in cultures. Examples will be drawn from the full span of human existence, including the first appearance of tools to contemporary industrial societies.

The Evolution of Technology, although it can be of interest to all students, is a course designed for non-majors. I especially encourage students from the hard sciences to consider taking this course. It focuses on the role of technology in culture, the reasons why technology changes and the effects that technological change has on culture. There are some "hands-on" components in this course in terms of designing technological solutions.

Grading: Midterm, project and exercises each account for 33 1/3% of the final grade. The project will consist of choosing a prehistoric practical problem and designing a technological solution for it given prehistoric constraints. NO FINAL EXAM.

Required Texts: None

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None

Notes: Deferred grades will be given only on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

This course may be applied toward the Certificate in Liberal Arts (Set 11).

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.